RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The answer is in the negative.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of agricultural labour in the State on account of the recruitment to the Labour Force?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There is no doubt that the available labour will be affected to some extent. But this is one of the paramount needs for the war effort and therefore Government are encouraging this recruitment.

Registration of documents.

91. ***SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA** (*Nominated*): With reference to the statement contained in the Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for 1118, to the effect that the percentage of documents registered on the day of presentation was 84·74 against 99·22 in 1117, will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the reasons for such a decline; and

(ii) whether steps have been taken to see that as far as possible documents presented are registered on the day of presentation itself, especially in view of the fact that very often the parties, many of whom are women and elderly persons, hail from distant villages?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): (i) Phenomenal increase in the number of documents presented for registration.

(ii) Fifteen additional offices were opened and 188 temporary clerks were appointed in the course of 1118 to promote the convenience of the public. There are departmental circulars directing Sub-Registrars to give preference to women, old persons and people coming from a distance.

Registration affecting immovable property.

92. ***SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA:** With reference to the registration affecting immovable property dealt with in the latest Administration Report of the Registration Department will the Government be pleased to state whether the implications and repercussions of the state of affairs disclosed by the following statement, *viz.*, that "of the 236,989 mortgages and 224,717 sales, 80,820 mortgages and 68,308 sales formed alienations made by agriculturists in favour of non-agriculturists, against 55,835 mortgages and 39,062 sales in 1117" have been considered by the Economic Development Board or any other agency of the Government, and if so, what steps have been taken or suggested to improve the position?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The question is engaging the attention of Government.

Education of youthful offenders.

93. ***SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA:** With reference to the statement contained in the Report on the Administration of the Central Prison for 1118 that there is much scope for improvement in respect of the education of youthful offenders, and that proposals are being formulated for the sanction of the Government, will the Government be pleased to state:

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